

## **REMARKS**

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

According to the Office Action dated March 9, 2007, document numbers 63-43169 and 1-261688 were not received and therefore, were not considered. Applicants submit herewith a Letter Submitting References Previously Submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement, along with copies of these foreign references and their English abstracts. Also submitted with the Letter is a copy of the postcard indicating that 6 documents were submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement on March 23, 2004. Applicants are in the process of obtaining a copy of the stamped copy of the postcard and will submit that copy, if necessary. Accordingly, no fee is believed to be due. Applicants request that the Examiner consider these references and initial PTO form 1449 listing these references.

Claims 1-3 and 28 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being independent.

Claims 4-27 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the recited subject matter. Claims 1-3 have been amended and claim 28 has been added. Applicants submit that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. 6,122,461 (Shinohara). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-3 have been amended merely to further clarify features of the present invention. Independent claim 1 recites features of an image forming apparatus including an

automatic adjustment portion, a job queuing portion, a counting portion, a determining portion, and a control portion.

The outstanding Office Action relies primarily on col. 10, lines 45-55 of Shinohara, as teaching the claimed features of independent claim 1. That portion of the specification reads as follows:

For example, assume that the print number of the next print job is larger than N2-N1, but no density control is wanted during the print job, i.e., when the print number N reaches N2. In this case, in accordance with the density control and density measurement procedures by the printer engine 220 in FIG. 5, the printer controller 200 can make the printer engine 220 execute density control by issuing a “density control command” before the print number N reaches N1. Therefore, an image density change large enough to be visually noted can be prevented in one job, and the print job currently in progress is not interrupted.

In contrast, claim 1 of the present application recites that a determining portion determines whether or not the number of image formations at which said automatic adjustment is to be performed by said automatic adjustment portion will be reached *during execution of said image formation job queued by said job queuing portion*, based on the number of image formations counted by said counting portion and said image formation job queued by said job queuing portion.

In other words, while Shinohara may teach performing density adjustment prior to a given print job, “N,” Shinohara does not teach or suggest taking into consideration all the print jobs in the queue, and performing automatic adjustment prior to the queue. In Shinohara, density control is executed when a density control command is received (Fig. 5). The print controller simply makes the printer engine execute density control by issuing the “density control command” before the print number N reaches N1. There is no relationship between when the control command is issued and the number of image formations, as presently recited in

independent claim 1. This feature can allow an entire queue of print jobs to be printed without interruption.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited art of record. Dependent claims 2, 3 and 28 are submitted to be allowable for at least their dependency on claim 1 and for the additional features these claims recite.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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